

## Vehicle Tool Compartment Explosion

On Saturday, May 7, 2005 an accident occurred involving a contractor at a cement operation. Two employees had just arrived in a service truck. The doors to the tool compartments locked and unlocked by using a 12 volt, wireless remote key fob. When one of the employees pushed the button on the fob, an explosion occurred. It sent one of the doors approximately 40 feet through the air. The employee closest to the truck suffered a broken finger as he was reaching into another door when the explosion occurred. A 20 lb. cylinder of acetylene was stored inside the utility body. The cylinder was full when placed in the body 15 days prior to the accident. The cylinder valve did not have a protective cover. Tests showed that the valve would leak if slightly bumped. The cylinder was found to be  $\frac{3}{4}$  full after the accident. The company that built the utility body knew of no previous accidents but will equip all body doors with stickers to warn against storing flammable materials inside the compartment.



### Best Practices

- Do not store flammable gases or liquids in any vehicle with automatic or wireless door locks.
- Leak test all flammable containers and cylinders.
- All combustible gas cylinders must have protective valve covers when transported or stored.
- If a vehicle is equipped with remote keyless entry, signs prohibiting storage of flammables should be provided.
- Develop a plan that addresses the potential hazard, proper flammable storage, and procedures to prevent a similar occurrence.